

Lake County Commissioners in Action

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BY MARIAN MCMAHON
GAZETTE NEWSPAPERS

LAKE COUNTY - Lake County Commissioners Bob Aufuldish, Dan Troy and Ray Sines meet at 10 a.m. most Thursdays, with some meetings at 2 p.m. on Tuesdays, in the Commissioners' Chambers on the fourth floor of the Lake County Administration Building, 105 Main St., Painesville.

All meetings are open to the public. Requests to address the government board may be made at any board meeting or presented to the Commissioners' Office by calling Amy Elaszcz at (440) 350-2753.

There was a meeting May 1. The next meeting will be Thursday, May 10 at 10 a.m.

At the April 26 meeting, the following legislation was adopted:

RESOLUTIONS: UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

- Resolution increasing appropriations for Lake County Solid Waste District professional services consultants transfer out and area C4-3 redesign professional services consultants and transferring cash.

The change was made because of needed ground water monitoring and the four-year operational plan.

- Resolution authorizing the temporary and seasonal employment of laborers for the Lake County Department of Utilities, effective May 7 through Oct. 26.

Eight employees will be paid at \$9.08 per hour and one will receive \$9.35 per hour.

- Resolution accepting the resignation of Kelly Stoneman from her position of account clerk I, Lake County Department of Utilities, effective April 18.

- Resolution certifying unpaid sewer and water sums to the Lake County Auditor.

- Resolution confirming and levying the revised assessments for Kirtland Sanitary Sewer Improvement Project No. 284-S.

The revised assessment is \$4,162,171.93.

The final per gallon costs are: \$25.4386 per gallon for the gravity sewer; \$3.9323 for the pump station, and \$0.6951 for the force main.

"After all the construction and project costs were in

that number is now \$30.06 which is about 20 percent lower than the initial assessment was," said Al Saari, county sanitary engineer.

Property owners have until May 29 to make cash payment.

COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE

- Resolution approving change order 3 for Ohio Paving & Construction Co., Inc. for the Lake County Crime Laboratory ADA Compliance and Renovation Project for the Lake County Prosecutor's Office, increasing the net amount by \$13,166.88.

The total cost, after the change, is \$84,737.41.

- Resolution changing the regular commissioners' meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 3 to Tuesday, May 1, 2012 at 10 a.m.

- Resolution accepting a state of Ohio Housing Stability Program grant in the amount of \$153,900 and authorizing execution of the grant agreement (#S-K-11-1DG-1) by and between the Lake County Board of Commissioners and the state of Ohio, Department of Development for grant period April 1 through Feb. 28, 2013.

"This is a stopgap; it had been the Homeless Assistance Grant through the state and that was fully extended," said Marian Norman, HOME program manager. "That started in 2008 for us."

Funding also came from the Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program.

"This Housing Stability Program mirrors the HPRR programs and only lasts for the eight-month period that's noted in the grant," Norman said. "That's going to then be followed next year by a Housing Crisis Response Program."

The HPRR funds will be used to give grants of up to \$1,000 for families who need financial assistance to stay in their homes or help those who become homeless to keep them from having to go to the county shelter.

- Resolution authorizing execution of an amendment (#AG1200096) to the agreement between the Lake County Board of Commissioners and Cuyahoga County for the FY09 State Homeland Security Program grant, effective through May

31.

"This is just an amendment to that agreement to reflect a modification of the services that are going to be provided," Commissioner Dan Troy said.

Paul Stefanko, director of Lake County Telecommunications said this is related to the new countywide telecommunications system which will also include Geauga and Cuyahoga counties, the state of Ohio and even a county in Michigan.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

- Resolution approving payment of bills as listed on the commissioners' approval journal in the amount of \$639,098.35.

- Resolution approving purchase orders as listed on the commissioners' purchase order approval journal in the amount of \$837,118.25.

- Resolution increasing and decreasing appropriations for various non general fund accounts.

- Resolution transferring cash and appropriations within various general and non general fund accounts.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS UTILITIES

Saari said four bids were received for the Bellflower Sewer Replacement Project, which had to be rebid because the one bid was over the engineer's estimate of \$201,000. The high bid was about \$235,000 and the low bid, although over the estimate at \$214,713, was within 10 percent of the estimate. The project does require specialty drilling.

NEW BUSINESS

Troy said the executive boards for the County Commissioners Association of Ohio (CCAO) and the Ohio Auditors Association met to discuss some conflicts.

One issue discussed was that there was no single organization to represent all county governments, but rather numerous organizations representing the various county agencies.

Another issue concerned the shale oil and gas production.

"There's questions of what will be taxed and at what rate it will be taxed and what happens with the proceeds of those taxes," Troy said. "We're kind of working on a position which kind of includes that the severance tax rate should be

increased beyond what the administration is proposing, without discouraging the industry from locating in Ohio.

"Ohio is substantially less than the severance tax rate that exists in a lot of other states."

He said they felt part of the money should be reserved for restoring the drilling areas and repairing the roads used to get to the areas.

"There was also a discussion we had with the auditors office ... on the ad valorem tax," Troy said. "The property ad valorem tax; state law needs to be revised to provide local communities with more revenue than they are expected to receive under the current tax structure."

He said Louisiana basically allowed the oil and gas industry to craft the state's tax laws for the industry and it is worse off after than before.

Troy said Ohio having the shale was good but it needed to be mined responsibly.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- John Muzic of Painesville Township asked the commissioners, and Commissioner Dan Troy in particular, if the state might be able to take some action regarding illegal aliens. He noted an article in which the Lake County area has been called "home to the region's largest concentration of illegal immigrants."

He said he has read articles which allege about 70 percent of illegal households receive some form of "entitlement" (public assistance).

He told Troy, who is running for state representative, he would like to see him try to do something about illegal immigrants at the state level, even though it is supposed to be handled by the federal government.

Matt Battiato, director of Lake County Job and Family services said his employees do verify that people are eligible for the various types of public assistance, and illegals are not eligible.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The commissioners adjourned to executive session to discuss imminent litigation, personnel, real estate and collective bargaining.

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